

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 00579 251425Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 MCT-01 SY-05  
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O R 251318Z JAN 77  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8721  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
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AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION NATO  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 0579

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, SP  
SUBJECT: GRAPO CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR VILLAESCUSA KIDNAPPING;  
POLICE PUBLISH NAMES, PHOTOGRAPHS. THREE GENERALS RUMORED  
PLACED UNDER HOUSE ARREST.

REF: MADRID 573 (NOTAL), MADRID 550

1. GRAPO HAS TAKEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE KIDNAPPING OF  
SUPREME MILITARY JUSTICE COUNCIL PRESIDENT GENERAL  
VILLAESCUSA. THE GRAPO NOTE CALLS THE KIDNAPPING A  
RESPONSE TO THE MURDER JANUARY 23 OF ARTURO RUIZ GARCIA  
(DURING A PRO-AMNESTY DEMONSTRATION), REITERATES ITS PREVIOUS  
DEMANDS REGARDING TOTAL AMNESTY IN EXCHANGE FOR THE RELEASE  
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OF KIDNAPPED COUNCIL OF STATE PRESIDENT ORIOL, BLASTS THE  
GOVT'S "PROVOCATIONS" AND "THREATS", AND CONCLUDES IN WHAT  
THE PRESS CALLED A "THREATENING TONE."

2. POLICE ISSUED A NOTE RE-CAPPING THE DETAILS OF THE  
KIDNAPPING AND IDENTIFYING, WITH PHOTOGRAPHS, TWO OF THE  
PARTICIPANTS AND A THRID "DIRECTLY RELATED" IN IT. THEY

ARE:

--ABELARDO COLLAZO ARAUJO, WHO WORE A MILITARY UNIFORM AND DROVE VILLAESCUSA'S CAR, AND WHO WAS "DIRECTLY IMPLICATED" IN THE ORIOL KIDNAPPING; MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE PCE-R AS WELL AS OF THE GRAPO;  
--ANGEL GUISANDE COVELO, ALSO A DIRECT PARTICIPANT AND CONNECTED WITH THE PCE-R; AND  
--LUIS TORRINOS CANTERO, ALSO CONNECTED WITH THE PCE-R AND, LIKE GUISANDE, ONCE ARRESTED AND LATER RELEASED.

3. A COMPLICATING FACTOR WHICH EMERGED IN THIS CASE IS THAT VILLAESCUSA HAS HAD TWO HEART ATTACKS AND WAS UNDER CONTINUING CARE. NEWS MEDIA COOPERATED IN PUBLICIZING THE USES AND DOSAGES OF HIS MEDICINES AND THE APPEAL OF HIS DOCTORS THAT THEY BE CALLED IN CASE OF NEED.

4. WHILE EXPRESSIONS OF CONDEMNATION CONTINUED IN THE PRESS AND POLITICAL CIRCLES, OUTGOING ARMY CHIEF OF STATE GENERAL CUADRA MEDINA DENIED THAT THE MILITARY HAD GONE ON ANY ALERT STATUS. HIGH GENERAL STAFF CHIEF GENERAL FERNANDEZ VALLESPIN WAS QUOTED AS DECLARING "THE MEASURES HAVE TO BE TAKEN BY THE GOVT, NOT BY THE ARMY." POLITICAL COMMENTATOR LUIS APOSTUA JANUARY 25 NOTED THAT LT. GENERAL PRADA CANILLAS, CAPTAIN GENERAL OF BURGOS, HAD SENT TELEGRAMS TO THE ARMY MINISTER AND TO THE KING EXPRESSING "DEEP REPULSION AND INDIGNATION OVER THE KIDNAPPING AND EXPRESSIVE OF THE CALM OF THE TROOPS AND THEIR UNBREAKABLE ADHESION" TO  
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THE KING. THE TELEGRAM TO THE MINISTER, APOSTUA, ADDED, ALSO CALLED FOR A PROMPT CLARIFICATION OF EVENTS AND EXEMPLARY PUNISHMENT OF THE GUILTY. APOSTUA CONCLUDED THAT THE TELEGRAMS SUGGESTED THAT THE KING, ENORMOUSLY POPULAR, SHOULD TAKE PUBLIC ADDRESS TO THE SITUATION TO EASE TENSIONS. MEANWHILE, A TOTALLY UNCONFIRMED RUMOR HAS ARISEN THAT THREE GENERALS, PERHAPS INCLUDING RIGHT-WING TANK COMMANDER MILANS DE BOSCH, HAVE BEEN PLACED UNDER HOUSE ARREST. STABLER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Subject:** GRAPO CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR VILLAESCUSA KIDNAPPING; POLICE PUBLISH NAMES, PHOTOGRAPHS. THREE GENERALS RUMORED PLACED UNDER HOUSE ARREST.  
**TAGS:** PINT, SP, GRAPO, (VILLAESCUSA, EMILIO)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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